

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management server for classification and retrieval of documents, comprising:

feature extracting means for extracting a feature ~~of~~based on an instruction from a client, the feature associated with electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network;

deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted ~~from~~based on the feature extracted by the feature extracting means ~~based on an instruction from a client~~; and

deleting means for deleting from the storing means via the network unnecessary electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management server for classification and retrieval of documents, comprising:

storing means connected to a network for storing electronic information;

feature extracting means for extracting a feature ~~of~~based on an instruction from a client, the feature associated with the electronic information stored in the storing means;

deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted ~~from~~based on the feature extracted by the feature extracting means ~~based on an instruction of a client~~; and

deleting means for deleting from the storing means unnecessary electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management server for classification and retrieval of documents, comprising:

storing means connected to a network for storing electronic information;

feature extracting means for extracting a feature ~~of~~associated with the electronic information stored in the storing means;

instructing and operating means for instructing the feature ~~of~~associated with the electronic information to be extracted;

deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted ~~from~~based on the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction from the instructing and operating means; and

deleting means for deleting from the storing means unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

4. (Original) The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising a character string.

5. (Original) The electronic information management according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising an image.

6. (Original) The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising a similar image.

7. (Original) The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides that other electronic information related to specific electronic information is also deleted together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The electronic information management server according to claim 1, ~~for classification and retrieval of documents,~~further comprising:
temporarily storing means for temporarily storing electronic information sent via a network;~~and, wherein~~
~~the deleting means for deleting~~deletes the unnecessary electronic information stored in the temporarily storing means at a predetermined timing.

9. (Previously Presented) The electronic information management server according to claim 8, wherein the deleting means deletes the unnecessary electronic information from the temporarily storing means after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the client is an electronic information management client for classification and retrieval of documents that instructs deletion of unnecessary electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network, the electronic information management client comprising:

instructing and operating means for instructing a feature ~~of~~associated with the ~~unnecessary~~ electronic information to be deleted.

11. (Original) The electronic information management client according to claim 10, further comprising inputting means for inputting the feature and transferring it to the instructing and operating means.

12. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

extracting a feature ~~of~~associated with electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network;

deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting from the storing means via the network unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted.

13. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

storing predetermined electronic information;

extracting a feature ~~of~~ associated with the stored electronic information;

deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted.

14. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising a character string instructed by the client.

15. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising an image instructed by the client.

16. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided by obtaining a feature comprising an image instructed by the client based on image features having a similar image of the image.

17. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein other electronic information related to specific electronic information is also decided as a deletion object together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature.

18. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method according to claim 12, further for classifying and retrieving documents, ~~comprising the steps of:~~

temporarily storing electronic information sent from a network; and
deleting unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information at a
predetermined timing.

19. (Previously Presented) The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information is deleted after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

20. (Currently Amended) The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information is deleted based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information.

21. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the temporarily stored electronic information is transferred based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information.

22. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method according to claim 12, for classifying and retrieving documents, ~~when electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network is deleted, further comprising the steps of:~~

inputting a feature ~~of~~ associated with the electronic information to be deleted;
and

giving a deletion execution instruction to unnecessary electronic information that is to be deleted and extracted from the storing means according to the input feature.

23. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, ~~comprising the steps of:~~

inputting a feature ~~of~~associated with electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

deleting unnecessary electronic information that is extracted as the deletion object from the storing means, according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

24. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

inputting a feature ~~of~~associated with electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment;

transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment; and

deleting unnecessary transferred electronic information from the storing means.

25. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 24, wherein a deletion timing of the electronic information stored in the temporary storage server is instructed by the terminal equipment.

26. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 24, wherein a transfer of electronic information stored in the temporary storage server to the terminal equipment is instructed by the terminal equipment.

27. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

accepting an input of a feature ~~of~~associated with electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

deleting unnecessary electronic information that is extracted as the deletion object from the storing means, according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

28. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

extracting a feature ~~of~~associated with electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network;

deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting from the storing means via a network unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The recording medium according to claim 28, further comprising~~readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, the method comprising the steps of:~~

storing electronic information sent via a network in temporary storing means; and

deleting unnecessary electronic information stored in the temporary storing means at a predetermined timing.

30. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, when electronic information

stored in storing means connected to a network is deleted, the method comprising ~~the steps~~
~~of~~:

accepting a feature ~~of~~ associated with the electronic information to be deleted;

and

accepting a deletion execution instruction for unnecessary electronic
information that is to be deleted and extracted from the storing means according to the
accepted feature.

31. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, recording
a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information
management method for classifying and retrieving documents, the method comprising ~~the~~
~~steps of~~:

accepting an input of a feature ~~of~~ associated with electronic information from
terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information
stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the
storing means to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from
the terminal equipment and deleting unnecessary transferred electronic information from the
storing means.